



News from the Dog Pound

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February 2022

From Mrs. Byatt-Millington

Even though February is our shortest month, it always seems the fullest, maybe because it's a "Feel Good" month because it hosts Valentine's Day? This is a great month to show your love and appreciation for those around you. Here at school, we are very grateful for:

1. Our outstanding students, who try their best every day in their work and their play. Without them, we wouldn't be here – our students are the reason for our existence. They have shown us time again this year how resilient and capable they are.
2. Our fabulous families, who support our school by participating in events (when we can), volunteering when needed and being the best cheerleaders for our community.
3. Mrs. Aubie, who is the centre of our school and goes above and beyond to make things seamless and smooth for our families.
4. Mr. Heath, Mr. Yott and Mrs. Taylor, who keep the school looking great, fix our broken toys, get balls off the roof and offer a kind ear to students who need a friendly adult to talk to.
5. Our ECE's, Mrs. Beselaere and Ms. Chauvin, who bring their knowledge of early learning to our FDK rooms and create an engaging place for our youngest learners to learn and grow.
6. Our EA's, Ms. Martin, Mrs. Nicholson, Mrs. Labadie and Mrs. Konecny, who know that the students who require the most from them, often ask for that help in the least direct ways.
7. Our teachers, who dedicate themselves to every student, every day. In addition to teaching student's curriculum, they coach, direct, lead, experiment, create, volunteer, encourage, support and counsel.

Covid School Screening

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank families for completing the Covid School Screening every day. Keeping sick children home is our best defense against keeping Covid out of the school. We will continue asking for proof/verification of screening every morning to ensure that everyone is doing their part to keep our school safe for everyone.

Families in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will continue to receive an email notification and verification each morning. Students in Grade 4-6 are asked to complete the screener at home and report their results to their teacher in the morning.

If you are ever in doubt about sending your child to school, please complete the screener and follow the directions you are given.

The screener can be at: [Covid School Screener](#)

Kindergarten Registration

We had a great turn out for Kindergarten Registration – some new families and some returning. It was wonderful to be able to welcome families into the school to sign up and tour the classrooms.

If you weren't able to make it to the registration day, or you know someone who couldn't, it's not too late – registration is ongoing through the spring. You can visit [Kindergarten Registration](#) to register or call the school to sign your child up.

Report Cards

Term 1 Report Cards (Grades 1-6) and Communication of Learning (Kindergarten) will be going home with students on Friday, February 18th.

The purpose of the Report Card/Communication of Learning is to inform parents of their child's progress based on the expectations set out by the Ministry of Education.

There are no formal interviews being set up for the Term 1 Reports but if you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, please reach out to your child's teacher to discuss.

Black History Month

February is Black History Month in Canada and here at HW Burgess we are participating in a variety of ways. Recognizing the contributions of Black Canadians, both past and present, is essential to preparing our students to live in a diverse society. Teachers will be working with students to understand the impact of racism on everyone and on developing acceptance and tolerance of all. We have several virtual field trips planned for students to local museums and historical sites that are of key importance to everyone living in Chatham-Kent. As well, we are proud to display a Black Lives Matter flag in the front hall to show our support.

School Council and Home and School Association

Our next meetings will be on Monday, February 7th, with a combined meeting starting at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held over Google Meet once again, due to gathering restrictions. All parents are welcome to attend this meeting, please contact the office if you would like a join code sent to you.

Restocking Time

This is a reminder that the start of a new term is a great time for fresh starts and new beginnings. This holds true for school supplies and indoor footwear, especially as everyone seems to be growing a lot taller over the winter. Please take a few minutes to check with your child to ensure that:

- a) they have indoor footwear
- b) the footwear they have fits
- c) the footwear is appropriate for wearing during physical education periods with non-marking soles

It is essential that all children have appropriate indoor footwear for safety reasons. In cases of emergency and fire drills, students without footwear do not have time to seek outdoor footwear and could find themselves standing outside, perhaps for an extended period of time, without appropriate or sufficient protection for the elements.

Pink Shirt Day

Each year, we celebrate Pink Shirt Day in the month of February, this year on February 22. Students are encouraged to wear a pink shirt (or other article of pink clothing) to show that they want to be a part of kinder and more inclusive world where bullying does not happen.

Teachers will be working with their classes on activities that promote kindness and inclusiveness for all and teach students what to do if faced with bullying.

Attendance

We know that one of the most important indicators of a student's success is their regular and consistent attendance at school. When students miss school, they also miss important teaching moments and they miss out on the opportunity to work with and collaborate with their peers, developing their social skills.

While we understand that children get sick and we encourage them to stay home when they are, we have noticed an increase in student absences and late arrivals. We encourage all our families to continue to do their best to have children at school before 9:10, ready to start their day.

Good work habits that are developed now will serve our students well into adulthood.

Family Day

The Family Day holiday falls on February 21st this year. The school is closed on this day so that students and staff can spend time with their families.

Playground Equipment

Our playground equipment is still out of bounds. There are many risks associated with using the equipment once the colder weather has arrived. Please encourage your children to stay off the playground equipment after school hours also.

Pizza Days

The Home and School Association is continuing to offer pizza from Bill's International on Thursdays. Orders can be completed through School Cash Online – paper order forms are no longer being sent home.

If you haven't signed up for School Cash Online yet, give the office a call and Mrs. Aubie will gladly walk you through the steps.

LKDSB Inclement Weather Policy

Buses are cancelled means the school will be open for students, but buses will not pick up students at home in the morning or at school in the afternoon. Parents of bus students are welcome to drop off and pick up their children.

Schools are closed means that students and staff are not to come to school as the building is not open.

Please listen to CKXS 99.1 FM or go to [School Bus Info](#) to learn about bus cancellations and/or school closures. We are in Zone 5.

Dates to Remember in February:

Feb 14 – Valentine's Day

Feb 18 – Term 1 Report Cards sent home

Feb 21 – Family Day (no school)

Feb 23 – Pink Shirt Day